The Maritime News

The Official Newspaper of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

December, January, February 2009/2010



the thinking of her 19th century builders. Now fitted with two diesel engines, she remains a good, safe boat to take a crowd of people out sailing. We take kids out in the Explorer Program, and we offer interpretive sails to the general public.

The *Alma* is doing her best work now. Where once she carried salt, and took Captain Peterson's family and friends out for the Fourth of July, she is now devoted to carrying people. She belongs now to the people of this nation. This is a comfortable retirement for a hardworking vessel.

For information on the Explorers education program for kids call 415-292-6664. Join a Park Ranger for a three-hour interpretive sail aboard the *Alma* April through November. Call 415-447-5000 for information.

Photos left: *Alma* sailing on San Francisco Bay, and weekend fun on the scow schooner *James F. McKenna*. This photo was taken sometime between 1902 and 1910. NPS K9.5453

Welcome

In this issue we honor the hardest working 118 year-old on the Bay, our scow schooner *Alma*. After many years, and a handful of careers, she still delights visitors each sailing season with ranger-led on-the-water history tours.

We're proud to announce that the multimedia exhibit aboard our 1886 square-rigger *Balclutha* just won first place in the 2009 National Association for Interpretation Media Competition! Please come aboard and experience this below-deck immersive exhibit.

This February, we have special programming to mark African American History month, including an exposition of the maritime routes of the Underground Railroad and a sing-along exploration of the African American/Caribbean contribution to traditional sea chanteys.

For kids of all ages, one of our volunteer storytellers will present a charming original maritime tale in our Visitor Center: the 1887 adventures of two stowaway kittens who get more than they bargained for aboard the Balclutha!

And our free cell phone tours, which debuted this summer, were so popular that they've been held over into the off-season. If you're on the Pier, just look for a station and punch in the number for expanded information recorded by our own ranger staff. But you can now access your maritime heri-

tage anywhere – just check out our web page for the call-in number and a list of subjects!

Kate Richardson Superintendent



1 A Ride on the *Alma*

This winter Alma will be away from her usual berth at the very end of Hyde Street Pier "laid-up" at a local shipyard for yearly maintenance. Look for her back sailing on the Bay by early spring.

2 Balclutha's Cargo Is King! Exhibit Wins Award

Discover this below-deck, immersive, interactive exhibit aboard the 1886 *Balclutha*.

4 Sailing on the *Alma*

Kids go sailing on the *Alma* today, but that's nothing new. 100 years ago kids like Alma Peterson went sailing on scow schooners.

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National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

San Francisco Maritime **National Historical Park**

Established in 1988, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park encompasses only 34 acres, but contains the most national historic landmarks of any unit in the National Park Service. In addition to the fleet of ships at Hyde Street Pier, the park includes the Aquatic Park Historic Landmark District (Bathhouse building, urban beach, lawn area and bocce ball courts), a Visitor Center and a research library (in Fort Mason Center).

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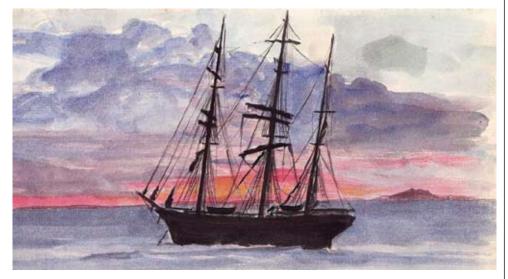
Contributors to Volume 27: Tim Campbell, Stephen Canright, Lynn Cullivan, Richard Everett, Amy Hosa, and Mark Neuweld.

The Maritime News December, January, February 2009/2010 Volume No. 27.

Remembering Volunteer

Bruce Sherman

Collections Corner



This watercolor painting by John Milton Ramm is a port side view of the bark Lina anchored at Accra, Ghana with a dusk-filled horizon behind it. SAFR 13852.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park houses a diverse collection of drawings, watercolors, and ephemera by John Milton Ramm. Born in 1904 in San Francisco, Ramm was a muralist and painter focusing on a variety of genres, including maritime. His artistic endeavors stemmed from his father, John Henry Ramm, who was a painter and photographer, renowned for his illustrative documentation of the 1906 earthquake.

Ramm attended Lowell High School in San Francisco, and continued his studies at the California School of Fine Arts. After graduating, he travelled the world on merchant ships from 1923 to 1938, utilizing his artistic talents as he documented his surroundings with drawings and paintings.

Much of his artwork was inspired and produced during his time at sea on merchant ships. The watercolor painting shown above captures what he saw on a voyage. It is the port side view of the bark, Lina, anchored at Accra, Ghana with a dusk-filled horizon behind it. His style shows naturalism and the ship is drawn with accuracy. Time spent at sea influenced his other artwork. He produced advertising material

ing heritage that told of crimps, Cape Horners, and the pleasures and curse of

The October chantey sing at the park was held in his honor. He is already missed, and will be remembered for a very long time.

By Peter Kasin, Park Ranger



for San Francisco steamship companies and rendered various ephemera such as holiday greeting cards many of which include ships, sea animals, and maritime themes.

During World War II, Ramm employed his talents as an engineering draftsman and shipfitter. Most of his life was either spent at sea or in the San Francisco Bay Area. He died in 1984 in Alameda.

The John Milton Ramm collection is available for scholarly investigation and research by appointment. Images of his work are available on the National Park Service Web Catalog www.museum.nps.gov/safr/page.htm

By Jocelyn Park, Museum Technician

Cell Phone Tours a Hit!



We debuted our free, Maritime Voices, cell phone tours this summer and visitors are really liking what they hear! Because of this enthusiastic response, the tours will continue to be available. When you are on the pier, look for one of eight stations and choose from 28 different recordings that last two to three minutes. Narrated by park rangers, topics include danger and adventure on the high seas, swimming in the Bay, small craft, and much more. You don't have to be on the pier to enjoy these recordings; simply call 415-294-6754, and check our webpage www.nps.gov/safr/planyourvisit/cellphoneaudiotours.htm for a list of subjects.

The park is working with visitors, educators, and residents and generating ideas for new ways to bring park information to the people. Do you have an idea for us? Please stop by the Visitor Center and speak with the employee at the desk, or call 415-447-5000, or email safr_planning@nps.gov.

Tug *Hercules* At Dry Dock

When you visit Hyde Street Pier this winter you will notice that the steam tug Hercules is not in her usual berth. On September 30, 2009, she was towed east across San Francisco Bay to a shipyard in Alameda, Calif. Hercules is currently drydocked at Bay Ship and Yacht where she is receiving a comprehensive inspection of her hull. All ships develop marine growth on the part of their hulls that are below the waterline. Hercules hull was heavily "fouled," with Metridium species, also known as a Sea Anemone. The lower photo shows her clean "bottom" after workers scraped off the dense, two-inch thick, nasty-smelling growth. They will next apply a fresh coat of anti-fouling paint. We expect *Hercules* to return to the pier by the beginning of January. For more information on the ship go to www.nps. gov/safr/historyculture/hercules.htm or call 415-447-5000.





NPS Photos by Fred Sheppard

The Cargo is King! multimedia exhibit, located on the 'tweendeck of the 1886 squarerigger Balclutha, was awarded first place in the 2009 Na-

tional Association for

Interpretation (NAI) Media Competition. Please visit Balclutha soon and descend below deck to enter this lantern-lit, immersive environment. Discover the important cargoes Balclutha transported around the world and the stories of the people who depended on them.

The NAI is a professional organization dedicated to advancing the profession of interpretation, currently serving 5,000 members in the United States, Canada, and thirty other nations. Members work at parks, museums, nature centers, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums, commercial tour companies, and theme parks.

beloved volunteers, Bruce Sherman, who

The park recently lost one of its most

passed away on September 9. Bruce had a magical ability to connect with local, national, and international visitors with his chantey singing and playing traditional music on the accordion and concertina.

Visitors aboard the Balclutha were charmed by his musical ability, his gentle demeanor, and his knowledge of San Francisco and its history. He loved the city, and was known by patrons at various cafes and stores where he sang and played.

Bruce was for many years a participant at the park's monthly chantey sings, and a performer at park festivals, gracing Hyde Street Pier as the "roving chanteyman." He sang chanteys of San Francisco's seafar-

Visitor Information Dates and Hours of Operation:

Hyde Street Pier, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5:00PM. Last pier entry at 4:30 PM.

Visitor Center, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5:00pm.

Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building, located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street. The building is open from 10:00AM to 4:00PM daily. For program information, call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000.

Maritime Library, on the third floor of Bldg. E in Fort Mason Center (auto entrance at Buchanan Street and Marina Blvd), is open to the public by appointment Monday-Friday (1РМ-4РМ), and the 3rd Saturday of the month (10AM-5PM). Call 415-561-7030.

Accessibility Information



Programs in the Visitor Center, on Hyde Street Pier, and in the library are accessible. Accessibility to programs on the ships varies. For detailed information, please call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000, or http://www. nps.gov/safr/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.

Boarding Pass (Entrance Fee for Historic Vessels): \$5

Free for supervised children under 16. Free with Federal Interagency Annual, Senior, and Access Passes, and San Francisco Maritime NHP Annual Pass. Free first Sunday of each month.

No-Fee Areas

Visitor Center, Hyde Street Pier, Aquatic Park Historic Landmark District, and the Maritime Library (Fort Mason Center).



The Maritime News is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. Please recycle it again.

Contact Information

General Park Information: 415-447-5000 Maritime Store: 415-775-2665 Maritime Library: 415-561-7030 USS Pampanito: 415-775-1943 Park Website: www.nps.gov/safr Association Website: www.maritime.org

Reservations/Permits

Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit, call 415-561-6662, ext. 30. Special Use Permits require at least a one month notice and application. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis, call 415-561-7170.

Music, Tours, Events, Lectures and Living History

HOLIDAY EVENT

CHRISTMAS AT SEA

Saturday, December 12, 3:00pm. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Evening program begins at 6PM. For information 415-447-5000. Bring the family down to Hyde Street Pier for an old fashioned holiday. Music, refreshments, ornament-making, and a visit from Santa (by boat) will be part of the fun from 3PM to 4:45PM. Then, beginning at 6PM, the park's costumed Living History players will take you back to a bygone era, where you will meet and talk with the Captain and crew of the Balclutha, passengers on the Eureka ferryboat in their holiday best, and the cream of San Francisco society aboard the Ark houseboat. It all happens during a lamplit tour of the vessels decorated for Christmas 1901. Reservations required for the 6рм program, call 415-447-5000. [©]

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

THE SAGA OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM SHOREY Sundays, February 14 & 28, 3PM. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.

A series of slides will introduce you to the extraordinary life and accomplishments of the only Black whaling ship captain on the West Coast.

MARITIME ROUTES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Sunday, February 21, 3PM. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.
A presentation on the use of ships as routes to freedom on the Undeground Railroad.
The California Gold Rush, West Coast whaling, stories of escape, and uncovering lost stories will be included.

BLACK AMERICANS AT SEA

Sunday, February 7 and Saturday, February 27, 3pm. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.

Join San Francisco Maritime Ranger Tom Jares for a look at the lives of African American seamen during the Age of Sail. Discover the pivotal role they played in maritime history.

EXHIBIT: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE MARITIME TRADES

Daily, throughout February. In the Visitor Center.

Photo exhibit about the contributions of African Americans in maritime industries.

CHANTEYS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONNECTION

Saturday, February 27, 1PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission

Join Park Ranger Peter Kasin and Park Volunteer Richard Adrianowicz in a program of African American and Caribbean based work songs of sailors and dock workers. The choruses to these chanteys are easy to sing and participants are encouraged to sing along.

MUSIC

CHANTEY SING

Saturdays, December 5, January 2, and February 6, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. Free. Aboard a historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations required: call 415-561-7171 or email peter_kasin@nps.gov.

Sing traditional working songs aboard a

© FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship's galley.

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS

Saturdays, December 19, January 16, and February 20, 3_{PM}. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun. Ages 7 and up. \odot

NEW PROGRAM

MARITIME STORY TIME: THE TALE OF HENRY AND HARRY

Saturdays, December 5, January 9, and February 6, 11_{AM} and 1_{PM}. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free. Ages 6-12.



teer storyteller Denise McEvoy as she relates the 1887 adventures of two stowaway kittens aboard the Balclutha. Hear what it

Join volun-

was like to be a sailor on the ship's maiden voyage sailing the rough Cape Horn passage to San Francisco. ©

PROGRAMS

ITALIAN FISHING FAMILIES

Sunday, January 31, 3_{PM}. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.

Join a park ranger for a special PowerPoint program about the families who emigrated to the Bay Area from Italy and began the great heritage of Italian fishing families.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CALIFORNIA

Sundays, December 6 and January 10, 3–3:45_{PM}. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.

Climate change is threatening California's water supply, creating a need for rapid human adaptation. Discover how we can change our behavior in order to survive.

HISTORIC WATERFRONT WALKING TOUR: FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK

FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK Saturdays and Sundays, December, January, and February, 10:30-11:30 Am. Meet in the Argonaut Hotel lobby (495 Jefferson St.), adjacent to the Visitor Center. Free.

Stroll with a Park Ranger to discover the history of this vibrant area on a walking tour through the Aquatic Park Historic District, the Cannery, Hyde Street Pier, and "Fish Alley" at Fisherman's Wharf. The



The Maritime Store is operated by the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association

tour covers about a mile, with some gently sloping and uneven terrain. Dress in layers, wear sunscreen, and walking shoes.

AQUATIC PARK BATHHOUSE BUILDING Open 10:00_{AM} to 4:00_{PM} daily. Located at 900 Beach Street, at the foot of Polk Street. Ranger-led tour at 3_{PM} daily. Free.

The historic, 1939, newly restored Works Progress Administration-era building's lobby and veranda are open to the public. View the the unique architecture, stunning murals and sculpture, and recently completed renovation work.

ADVENTURES AT SEA: LIFE ABOARD A 19^{TH} CENTURY SAILING SHIP

Daily, December, January, and February, 2:15pm. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Join in on a guided tour of the historic ship Balclutha. Discover the hardships and rewards of the sailors who fought for survival during the treacherous Cape Horn passage.

MEMORIES ETCHED IN IVORY: A SAILOR'S ART

Saturdays, December 19, January 16, and February 6, 3PM. Aboard Eureka at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Learn the artistic process of scrimshaw. Create your own scrimshaw and take your art home with you. View scrimshaw pieces and other examples of sailor's work. You don't have to be an artist to attend! Join us for the fun of learning something new!

LIGHTHOUSES OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY Sundays, December 20, January 17, 1:15pm and 3:15pm, and February 21, 1:15pm only.

and 3:15pm, and February 21, 1:15pm only. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.

Join Volunteer Warren Riley for a program on the role of lighthouses in the development of San Francisco. Learn about the history, equipment, and people who ran them.

HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR

Saturday, January 23, 3PM. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Tour includes climbing moderately steep ladders and entering cramped spaces.

Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steam engine technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer.

ANIMALS OF HYDE STREET PIER Dec 10, 11 (2pm), Dec 13, 15 (3:30pm); Jan 3

Dec 10, 11 (2PM), Dec 13, 15 (3:30PM); Jan 10, 12 (3:30PM), Jan 26, 28 (3PM); and Feb 11, 25, 26 (3:30PM). Meet at the end of Hyde Street Pier Free

SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR Saturday, January 23, 9:30_{AM}-2:30_{PM}. Meet at the Small Boat Shop, Free, Reservations

at the Small Boat Shop. Free. Reservations required; call 415-556-4031.
Bring a bag lunch and ride with us to our

small craft warehouse in Alameda. We'll tour the collection of nearly 100 historic boats, talking about history, design and construction.

WOMEN AT SEA

Sundays, December 13 and January 24, 3pm. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

Learn what shipboard life was like for the captain's wife (and children) on voyages lasting months during the Age of Sail.

TRANSPACIFIC OCEAN LINERS: THE FATED SISTERS

Saturdays, January 9 & 30 and February 13, 3_{PM}. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den Free

This new PowerPoint presentation will take you aboard the Dollar Line sister ocean liners *President Hoover* and *Coolidge*, two of the most opulent and feted American liners that operated out of San Francisco during the 1930s. \odot

MODELERS' WORKSHOP

Saturdays, open throughout the winter, 9:30_{AM}-4:30_{PM}. On the car deck of the Eureka. Vessel admission.

Membership in the Hyde Street Pier Model Shipwrights club is open to anyone interested in building ship models.

Members build their own models and also work on a unique model of the Freda, the oldest active sloop on the West Coast. Modelmaking techniques

COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

are demostrated. Questions? Call the

Volunteer Office, 415-556-1613.

A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901

Saturday, December 12, 6PM-9PM. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Reservations required, please call 415-447-5000. Step back in time to Christmas 1901. See the Holiday Event entry on this page.

IN THE LIBRARY

The library is open to the public on the third Saturday of the month, 10_{AM} to 5_{PM} , and Monday through Friday by making an appointment. Call 415-561-7030.

Programs are held in the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. Donation: \$5 (\$4 Library friends and SFMNPA) For reservations call 415-561-7040 or melani_van_petten@partner.nps.gov.

IMMIGRATION AND OUR MARITIME HISTORY

Saturday, January 23, 6PM.

Bob Barde, author of Immigration at the Golden Gate, traces how Asian immigration helped determine the nature of the ships that crossed the Pacific, the crews that manned them, the facilities for handling whatever the ships were carrying, and the methods for regulating the arrival of those ships and their passengers.

BLACK AMERICANS AT SEA

Saturday, February 13, 6PM.
Join San Francisco Maritime Ranger Tom Jares for a look at the lives of African American seamen during the Age of Sail.
Discover the pivotal role they played in maritime history.



Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library

Join the Friends and help support the J. Porter Shaw Library at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. The Friends welcome members who are interested in maritime books, photos, oral histories and maritime lore. Membership includes reduced admission to Friends' events, free admission to the Pier, and discounts on books purchased at the library and The Maritime Store on Hyde Street Pier. Call 415-561-7040.

Today In The Park

DECEMBER

- 1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
- Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
 Maritime Story Time Chantey Sing

Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays

- 6 Fee Free Day Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- Climate Change & Calif. Water
- 10 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 11 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 12 Holiday Program
- 13 Women at Sea
 - Animals of Hyde Street Pier
 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 19 Music of the Sea for Kids

- JANUARY
- 1 Park Closed; Happy New Year

Memories Etched in Ivory

Maritime Library open

25 Park Closed; Happy Holidays

20 Lighthouses of SF Bay

Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
Historic Waterfront Walking Tour
(every Saturday)

Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays

- Chantey Sing Fee Free Day
- Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- 9 Maritime Story Time Transpacific Ocean Liners
- 10 Climate Change & Calif. Water Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 12 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 16 Music of the Sea for Kids

- Memories Etched in Ivory Maritime Library open
- 17 Lighthouses of SF Bay
- 23 Hercules Engineering Tour Small Craft Collection Tour Library Lecture
- 24 Women at Sea
- 26 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 28 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 30 Transpacific Ocean Liners
- 31 Italian Fishing Families

FEBRUARY

- African American Exhibit opens in Visitor Center
 - Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
- Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday) Maritime Story Time Memories Etched in Ivory Modelmaking Workshop open

- Chantey Sing Fee Free Day
- 7 Fee Free Day
 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour
 (every Sunday)
- Black American Sailors
 11 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 3 Transpacific Ocean Liners
- Library Lecture
- 14 Saga of Captain Shorey20 Music of the Sea for Kids
- Maritime Library open
 21 Lighthouses of SF Bay
 Maritime Routes of the
- Underground Railroad 25 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 26 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 27 Black American Sailors Chanteys: African American & Caribbean Connection
- 28 Saga of Captain Shorey

Activity Page for Kids

The Explorers education program takes place aboard the historic scow schooner *Alma*. Schooner *Alma* was originally built in 1891, but she's been repaired many times since then. Boats made out of wood need lots of attention to keep them shipshape.

Kids work together to raise *Alma's* sails and get her ready to sail on the

Bay. Once underway, the students rotate through stations on the deck that focus on geometry, reading nautical charts and plotting courses, understanding longitude and latitude, and discovering the origins of weather on the Bay.

The highlight of the voyage is the students' "trick at the helm" where they experience the thrill of steering

the 60-ton schooner under the guidance of the "Old Man," also known as the captain.

Back in 1891, when the the *Alma*

on Saturdays

Back in 1891, when the the *Alma* was built for James Peterson, he decided to name it after his 3-year-old daughter Alma. When she was older, Alma, and her siblings Olga and Roy, went sailing with their captain father on the weekends.



This is not Alma Peterson, but this is how some girls dressed in the early 1900s. We do know this girl went sailing on scow schooners. Can you find her in the photo on the front page?

TRY THIS ACTIVITY

Close your eyes and pretend you are Alma Peterson and you've sped forward through time and are now standing on *Alma's* deck with a fourth grade class.

Open your eyes, look around, and write down three things that surprise you. What surprises you about the kids, the way the Bay and the City look? Would you notice something different if you looked west toward the ocean and the Golden Gate?

The Explorers program is run by the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association in partnership with San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. For more information on the Explorers and other maritime education programs, please visit www.maritime.org or call 415-292-6664. On most Saturdays from April through November you can join a Park Ranger for three-hour interpretive sail on the *Alma*. Call 415-447-5000 for information.

Kids' Page contributor, Barbara Wingo, Development Director, San Francisco Maritime National Park Association



Students on the Explorers program hauling a line on the *Alma* to raise the sails. The Golden Gate bridge is in the background. Photo San Francisco Maritime National Park Association

